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WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1943.

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HENRY ROGER, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*County Medical Officer*



*County Health Department,*

*Bury St. Edmund's.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of West Suffolk for the year 1943. This report, at the request of the Ministry of Health is, as in previous war years, an abridged one.*

*During the year, in spite of difficulties, and the many extra duties made necessary by war conditions, an attempt, not unsuccessful it is hoped, has been made to maintain the standard and, where possible, to effect improvements.*

*I have received throughout the year the loyal co-operation of all members of the Public Health Staff, and I gratefully acknowledge the help and encouragement given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

*I have the honour to be,*

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

**HENRY ROGER.**

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

*September, 1944,*

## STAFF OF THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

### (a) Medical and Dental Staff.

H. Roger, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., County Medical Officer, School Medical Officer and Chief Tuberculosis Officer.  
 Alison J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Senior Assistant County Medical Officer.  
 R. H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer and District Medical Officer of Health.  
 C. M. Wells, L.R.C.P. and S., L.D.S., Assistant County Medical Officer.  
 E. A. Haxton, B.D.S., Assistant Dental Surgeon (Joined H.M. Forces 14-6-42).  
 Mrs. M. Porter, L.D.S.        „        „        „  
 H. J. Eagleson, L.D.S.        „        „        „ (Appointed 5-8-43).

### (b) Milk Officer.

W. Paterson, N.D.D., C.D.A.

### (c) General Nursing Staff.

G. M. Penly Cooper, M.B.E., S.R.N., Certified Midwife, Chief Health Visitor.  
 \*L. Richardson, S.R.N.,        „        „        Health Visitor.  
   B. W. Collins, S.R.N.,        „        „        „        „  
 \*C. B. Coleman, S.R.N.        „        „        „        „  
 \*K. Woodhead, S.R.N.        „        „        „        „ (Resigned 30-4-43).  
 \*E. Stephenson, S.R.N.        „        „        „        „  
 \*G. Keen, S.R.N.,        „        „        „        „ (Appointed 17-5-43).  
   E. Stevens, S.R.N.,        „        „        Tutor-Sister (Resigned 30-4-43).  
   B. Dawes, Dental Attendant.  
   M. Keeley, „        „        „

\*These Officers hold the Health Visitors' Certificate.

### (d) Home Teacher for the Blind.

M. D. Gourlay.

### (e) Welfare Officer.

M. H. Ward (Appointed 14-4-43).

### (f) Clerical Staff.

The Chief Clerk to the Department, Miss D. Kilner, is assisted by nine assistant clerks.

## STATISTICS.

Rateable Value (General)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£473,058
Produce of a Penny Rate (General)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,911

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.1.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births, 25.3.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.6.

Deaths from diseases of pregnancy and childbirth :—

(a) from sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b) from other causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—									
All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33.3
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33.5
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30.3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234

### Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate was 16.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 16.8 for 1942 and 16.5 for England and Wales.

### Death Rate.

The Death Rate was 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 13.5 for 1942 and 12.1 for England and Wales.

### Infant Mortality.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 33.3 shows an improvement on the figure for 1942, which was 41.2. The figure for England and Wales was 49.

### Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births was 2.2, also an improvement on the figures for 1942, which was 4.2. The rate for England and Wales was 2.29.

### Zymotic Deaths.

A total of 6 zymotic deaths was returned. A summary of the causes of death is as follows :—Cerebro-spinal Fever, 2 ; Acute Infantile Encephalitis, 1 ; Measles, 3.



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

In May the arrangements mentioned in my Report for last year came into operation. Under this scheme all the pathological work for which the County Council is responsible is carried out at the Area Laboratory at White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket, with the exception of the examination of blood specimens for Wassermann reaction which are sent to the Public Health Emergency Laboratory at Cambridge. A block grant is paid by the County Council to both these Laboratories.

### **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

An additional ambulance was provided by the British Red Cross Society, making a total of six in the County owned by that Society. One, at Haverhill, is provided by a voluntary Society.

At the end of the year, there were twenty-five ambulances and forty-five "sitting case cars" provided under the Civil Defence Scheme, and available under certain conditions, for the removal of patients to and from hospitals and treatment centres.

### **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

The County Nursing Association has maintained its service throughout the County in spite of the shortage of nurses.

### **HOSPITALS.**

There has been no radical change in the hospital services for the County during the year.

#### **County Hospitals.**

The Council agreed that the Public Assistance Institution at Bury St. Edmund's, the only County Institution without a name, should be known as St. Mary's Hospital. This will do much to remove the stigma of the Poor Law from the County Institution and is especially opportune, as many women, not ordinarily Public Assistance cases, are seeking admission to the new Maternity Block for the birth of their babies. It was also decided that the Public Assistance Institution at Sudbury should be called Walnuttree Hospital instead of Walnuttree House.

#### **White Lodge Emergency Hospital.**

There has been no increase in the number of beds at this Hospital, but under the administration of the Public Health Committee, through a Sub-Committee which meets at the Hospital once a month, many developments and improvements have been effected, so that the Hospital is now well equipped with the most modern appliances, both medical and domestic. A dental surgery and an occupational therapy department have been added. In connection with the latter, a paddock adjoining the grounds has been acquired for rehabilitation purposes.

The grounds have been tastefully laid out under the direction of the Clerk and Steward, Mr. Heasman, to whom great credit is due.

There can be little doubt that the Hospital will play an important part in the post-war Hospital arrangements. In the meantime it has filled very successfully some long-standing local needs. In this connection special mention may be made of the accommodation now provided for tuberculous patients, and of the maternity accommodation. It is hoped in the near future that treatment for ear, nose, and throat cases may be provided under the School Medical Service.

### **MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.**

At the end of the year there were five registered Nursing Homes with a total of nine beds for maternity cases and 22 for other cases. The Sanatorium at Nayland, which was previously registered, was taken over by the British Legion and was exempted from registration. Four other applications for exemption were received and granted.

### **TRAINING OF NURSES.**

The scheme for the training of Assistant Nurses, as outlined in my Report for last year, has been continued, but under somewhat difficult circumstances. The Tutor-Sister who was appointed in October, 1942, had to resign on account of ill-health on April 30th, 1943, and it was not possible to replace her by a permanent appointment before the end of the year. The work of teaching was carried out for a time by a sister at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's, who visited Walnuttree Hospital, Sudbury, at regular intervals to instruct the Assistant Nurses there.

During the year seven probationers were accepted for training, but two defaulted. Sixteen were in training at the end of the year.

## **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.**

### **MIDWIFERY.**

#### **(a) Domiciliary Service.**

The arrangement for carrying out the midwifery service of the County through the County Nursing Association has continued in force as have also the ante-natal, post-natal and consultative and emergency unit services.

The number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area served by the Council was sixty-seven. In 1943 they attended as midwives one thousand and ninety-nine cases, while in seven hundred and twenty-seven cases they acted as Maternity Nurses, there being a practitioner in attend-

ance. Medical help was called by midwives in a total of two hundred and sixty-seven cases, which represents a percentage of 30.6 of the domiciliary cases. In two hundred and thirty-five of these cases medical help was sought in respect of the mother, and in thirty-two cases in respect of the baby.

A total of three hundred and seventy-seven ante-natal examinations including seventeen second examinations were made. This figure represents 48 per cent. of the total domiciliary midwifery cases taken by the Midwives during 1943. Fifty-two post-natal examinations were made during the period.

**(b) Institutional Maternity Accommodation.**

Owing to war-time conditions, the shortage of domestic help and the fact that many young mothers are not living in their own homes, the demand for institutional maternity accommodation has increased, and the extra accommodation mentioned in my Report for last year, has been fully utilised.

The West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's, admit a certain number of normal cases where the home conditions are unsuitable and 99 such cases were admitted during the year. The Ministry of Health have also sanctioned the admission of local women to the Alexandra Emergency Maternity Home, provided that there are vacancies and that they pay the full cost of their maintenance and treatment.

In addition, St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, opened a Maternity Unit of five beds in August. This necessitated certain alterations and adaptations in the existing building, which were approved by the Ministry of Health, and as the Hospital is exempted by the County Council from registration under the Nursing Homes Act, by my Department.

The number of women who were admitted to these various institutions during the year were as follows :—

St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's .. ..	76
Walnuttree Hospital, Sudbury .. ..	43
White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket ..	36
West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's	243 (including 99 normal cases)
St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury .. ..	24
Alexandra Emergency Maternity Home, Bury St. Edmund's .. ..	194 (113 evacuated, 81 local women)

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SPECIAL NATURE.**

Fourteen cases of puerperal pyrexia or fever were notified during the year. Seven of these occurred in institutions, three were removed to hospital, and in the other cases the necessary facilities for treatment were available.

There were four cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Three occurred in institutions, and one was removed to a hospital.

**INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND HOME VISITING AND SUPERVISION.**

The sixteen Infant Welfare Centres maintained and staffed by the County Council have been continued throughout the year and have been open to evacuees.

During the year a total of 7,153 attendances (6,272 in 1942, 6,716 in 1941, 5,167 in 1940, and 5,030 in 1939) were made by children attending these centres ; of these, 2,978 attendances were made by children under one year of age.

The number of children who attended for the first time was 777 (773 in 1942, 957 in 1941, 642 in 1940, and 550 in 1939) and this number included 498 children under the age of one year.

The health visiting is largely undertaken by the District Nurses but, owing to the shortage of Nurses and consequent amalgamation of districts, more of this work is tending to fall on the County Health Visitors.

The total number of visits paid during the year was 20,998. This included 6,185 visits to children under one year of age, and 14,813 visits to children between the ages of one and five.

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.**

The County Health Visitors have continued to visit regularly all children registered under Part VII. of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the work has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

The statistical details of the year's work are as follows :—

Number of cases on Register, 1-1-43 .. ..	105
Number of New Cases .. ..	47
Number returned to parents .. ..	6
Number adopted .. ..	6
Number died .. ..	—
Number who attained 9 years of age .. ..	15
Number who left County .. ..	17
Number transferred to Public Assistance Institutions ..	1
Number of Cases on Register, 31-12-43 .. ..	107
Number of unsatisfactory cases .. ..	1

**WAR-TIME NURSERIES.**

In view of the low average attendance and the fact that the Ministry of Labour and National Service had no evidence to show that the demand for nursery accommodation in the district would increase, the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health decided that the War-time Nursery at Hadleigh should be closed, and this was done on July 31st.



The Regional Officer also agreed that there was no longer a necessity to retain Weavers Hall, Haverhill, on a care and maintenance basis, and the premises were therefore released on July 31st.

The War-time Nurseries at Sudbury, Lavenham and Orchard Place, Haverhill, have been maintained, the average attendance being as follows :—

	No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Haverhill .. .. .	29	74%
Lavenham .. .. .	20	79%
Sudbury .. .. .	29	73%

At Lavenham, the British Restaurant, which was accommodated in the same building as the nursery, and from which the School dinners were obtained, was closed on September 18th. Arrangements were therefore made for the school dinners to be prepared in the kitchen that had been used for the restaurant. One of the mothers was engaged as cook, and one of the teachers undertook the catering. The arrangement proved to be a success ; the children are being provided with better meals than before, and the management is economical.

The Medical Supervision of the Nurseries is carried out by the County Medical and Health Visiting Staff.

WELFARE OFFICER.

The welfare work in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme had been undertaken by Miss McGregor, the County Organiser of Domestic Subjects, who had been seconded for this purpose and for work in connection with the organisation of war-time nurseries. After consultation with the Ministry of Health it was decided to appoint an Assistant County Welfare Officer, who, when she had become conversant with her duties, would be able to relieve Miss McGregor of this work. Such an officer was appointed in April, and took over the whole of the Welfare work six months later.

649 visits were paid by the Welfare Officers during the year.

SICK BAY ACCOMMODATION.

The “ Sick Bay ” at Risbridge Home, Kedington, has been maintained throughout the year for evacuated children who cannot conveniently be nursed in their billets or whose mothers have been admitted to a hospital, or cannot for some temporary reason care for them. One hundred and five cases, including 45 school children and 60 children under school age, were admitted for the following reasons :—

Whooping-cough, 2 ; Enuresis, 2 ; Gastritis, 2 ; Adenoids, Gingivitis and Sinusitis, 2 ; Eczema, 1 ; Mental Deficiency, 1 ; Care and Maintenance, 95.

COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

GENERAL STATISTICAL FACTS.

Eighty-eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1943 ; this is an increase of one on the corresponding figure for 1942 and is a decrease of five on that for 1941.

The new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year numbered thirty-eight, which is an increase of five on the figure for the previous year.

During the year a total of forty-six deaths was recorded, thirty-three being pulmonary cases and thirteen being non-pulmonary cases. In the previous year the total deaths were fifty-three, comprising forty-one pulmonary cases and twelve non-pulmonary cases.

The number of notified cases on the Register at the end of the year was three hundred and seventeen. The number on the Register shows a decrease of sixteen on the figure for the previous year.

I submit herewith a Table of New Cases reported in 1943, together with a summary of the total deaths from tuberculosis in the area during the year.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1943.

New Cases.					Deaths.				
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	—	—	1	1	0 ... ..	—	—	1	1
1 ... ..	—	—	3	1	1 ... ..	—	—	2	—
5 ... ..	1	1	6	7	5 ... ..	1	—	2	1
10 ... ..	—	1	2	1	15 ... ..	6	7	1	2
15 ... ..	5	2	1	—	45 ... ..	9	5	1	1
20 ... ..	8	7	3	1	65 ... ..	4	1	—	1
25 ... ..	6	8	—	1					
35 ... ..	9	6	3	1					
45 ... ..	14	7	—	2					
55 ... ..	6	1	2	—					
65 and upwards	3	3	1	1					
Totals .	52	36	22	16	Totals ...	20	13	7	6

SANATORIUM ACCOMMODATION.

It will be remembered that under the original arrangement this accommodation at White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket, consisted of a hut for men and a block in the original hospital for women but that it had been found practicable at the beginning to use the two blocks in the original hospital. Later, however, owing to the increased demand for sanatorium treatment, it was necessary to provide extended accommodation. It was decided, therefore, to implement the original arrangement by using a hut for male patients and by the kind agreement of the Ministry of Health it was decided to allocate a similar hut for the female patients. By the provision of verandahs for these huts excellent sanatorium accommodation has been provided.

I would like here to pay tribute to the devoted and excellent work of Dr. Arden Jones and Dr. Platts. They do not confine their work to the actual care of the patients while they are in the sanatorium. Their interest in following up cases on discharge and after-care has been most helpful both to my Department and to the patients themselves, from whom very appreciative reports are received.

There is no doubt that the setting up of a Tuberculosis Department at White Lodge Hospital has resulted in a very great improvement in the County Tuberculosis Service as the appended figures for the year will show :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Admissions to White Lodge Hospital .. .. .	42	42
Discharges from White Lodge Hospital .. .. .	31	38
Admissions to " Other Hospitals " .. .. .	24	24
Discharges from " Other Hospitals " .. .. .	23	20
Number of Patients admitted to Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, for thoracoplasty, etc., from White Lodge Hospital .. .. .		16
Number of Patients who attended White Lodge Hospital for Special Investigations—For Assessment and Diagnosis .. .. .	13	
For Observation .. .. .	15	
Number of Patients who attended White Lodge Hospital for Artificial Pneumothorax Refills— .. .. .	15	
Total Number of Refills .. .. .	234 (approximately)	
Number of Patients who attended " Other Hospitals " for Artificial Pneumothorax Refills— .. .. .	2	
Total Number of Refills .. .. .	20	
Number of X-Rays carried out at White Lodge Hospital .. .. .	78	
Number of X-Rays carried out at West Suffolk Hospital .. .. .	66	
Number of X-Rays carried out at " Other Hospitals " .. .. .	13	
	<i>Adults.</i>	<i>Children.</i>
Number of Contacts examined .. .. .	41	43

In addition all contacts are seen at the routine school medical inspections.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

This Scheme came into operation on 13-8-43 and it was decided that the administration of the Scheme should be through the Public Health Department, the Health Visitors working under the County Tuberculosis Officer.

From the date of commencement up to the end of the Year, 11 Males and 8 Females had received the Allowance.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

V.D. Officer—DR. ROBERT H. CLAYTON.

The total number of cases treated at the County Clinic at Bury St. Edmund's was one hundred and ninety-six, of whom fifty-one were Service cases. One hundred and sixteen new cases, including three Service men, were seen for the first time at the County Clinic and twenty-three new cases were treated at Centres outside the County, making a total of one hundred and thirty-nine new West Suffolk cases. The diagnoses in these cases were : Syphilis 13, Gonorrhoea 43, Soft Chancre 2, non-venereal and undiagnosed conditions 81.

The number of attendances at clinics were :—Bury St. Edmund's 1,103, Cambridge 119, Ipswich 94.

During the year 292 specimens were sent to laboratories for examination from the Clinic at Bury St. Edmund's. Of these, 139 were blood specimens for Wassermann test.

As reported last year, facilities for treatment at the County Clinic were extended. The need for this has been maintained throughout the year and the arrangements have continued. As the figures will show, much work has been done in this department and Dr. Clayton has shown the greatest interest, zeal, and clinical acumen in this work. I append a short note by Dr. Clayton on the position :—

" Cases dealt with for the first time at the County Clinic, and the total number of patients' attendances at the Clinic increased from 23 and 373 in 1939 to 156 and 1,103 in 1943. Clinically the year 1943 was interesting although the War caused fluctuations which prevented clinical observation continuing in many cases. Throughout the year those patients who were not subject to this fluctuation in their places of employment attended most regularly.



The number of cases of Syphilis remaining under treatment or observation on the last day of the year was 17. These cases first came under treatment at the Centre, one each in the years 1932, 1935, 1938 and 1939, three in 1941, four in 1942 and six in 1943. During 1943, fifteen of these cases obtained negative blood reactions for the first time since infection. The remaining two, whilst not definitely negative by the end of the year, showed improvement to the stage where their blood was reported upon as doubtful positive.

In common with other clinics it was possible to observe the speedy cure of Gonorrhoea by treatment with the Sulphanilamide drugs. The eleven cases recorded as remaining at the end of the year were cases infected near the close of the year. All were cured in the first quarter of 1944 with the exception of three cases which were cured in the second quarter—their cure being delayed by re-exposure or re-infection.

The six cases recorded at the end of the year as non-venereal or ‘undiagnosed conditions’ have since all been proved to be non-venereal.

Although therefore the figures of new cases for the year 1943 appear formidable, the rate of recovery of all cases has improved the position.”

**Regulation 33(b).**

This regulation has been of the greatest value in securing the attendance and, if necessary, the treatment of reported suspected sources of infection. The experience in this County and generally is such as to encourage the hope that the regulation or some similar provision will continue after the war.

In this County it was decided to second one of the County Health Visitors, Miss Collins, for the special duties in connection with the regulation. This course was deemed preferable to that of appointing a special almoner. The reasons, which have been amply justified by experience, were that the Health Visitor had previously been attached for duty at the Clinic and therefore was fully conversant with the work ; that in a scattered rural community it was wiser that a worker who would be recognised as dealing with Venereal Disease only should not be introduced, but that a Health Visitor, recognised in the County as such, should combine her investigations with other public health work ; and that it encouraged the alleged contacts to attend the clinic if the same person who interviewed them was in attendance also at the clinic.

During the year 16 Forms I. were received concerning 15 different women. Investigations were made and 14 women traced. Of these 11 were still in the County and reported for treatment. Form I. was received twice for one woman at a few months interval ; she was found both times and came for treatment. Thus it will be seen that all patients attended the Clinic if sufficient information was received to find them.

The four women for whom a Form I. was received and who did not attend the County Clinic are accounted for in the following ways :—

Insufficient information	.. .. .	One.
Traced outside the County and the authorities concerned informed	.. .. .	Two.
Could not be interviewed owing to the possibility of domestic upheaval.	The Army	
Authorities were asked to help in this case	.. .. .	One.

To achieve this result many visits and much patience and tact were necessary and Miss Collins’ work has been of the utmost value. Her work has also included the following up of defaulters. She has paid many visits to encourage more regular attendance or re-attendance after an absence. Thirty-two such visits were paid and the results were most encouraging.

**Propaganda.**

A programme of publicity was embarked on for the year 1943-1944. Forty-one lectures, mainly under the auspices of the Women’s Institutes, were given throughout the County by the County Medical Officer.

**HOUSING.**

**Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 to 1938.**

No grants were promised by the County Council under these Acts during the year.

**Housing Acts, 1930 to 1938.**

The statutory grant of £1 per annum per house for 40 years was made, under these Acts, to the following District Councils :—

Clare	R.D.C. in respect of 150 houses
Cosford	R.D.C. „ „ „ 102 „
Melford	R.D.C. „ „ „ 119 „
Thedwastre	R.D.C. „ „ „ 185 „
Thingoe	R.D.C. „ „ „ 205 „
	<hr/> 761 <hr/>

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

#### (1) General Bulk Milk.

In 1943 seventy-two samples of bulk milk were examined. Twenty-four samples failed in the Methelyne Blue and B. Coli tests. Tubercle bacilli were found in four cases, all of which were referred to the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who carried out Veterinary Inspections of the herds involved, and took further samples of milk from them. In one case, a cow that was being removed to the knackers gave a sample of milk positive to tubercle bacilli, and was therefore deemed to have been responsible for the positive bulk sample. In another case, a cow removed from the herd and dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, gave a sample positive to tubercle bacilli.

#### (2) Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1944.

##### Accredited Milk Licences.

During the year 110 Producers' Licences were issued, of which 6 were for the first time. Fifteen licences were withdrawn, 12 were suspended and 5 were re-instated. At the end of the year there were 88 herds on the Accredited Register.

The Milk Officer took 417 samples of milk, 323 of which passed the tests during the year.

##### Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences.

During the year 42 T.T. Licences were issued, of which 12 were for the first time. At the end of the year there were 42 Tuberculin Tested herds on the Register.

The Milk Officer took 106 samples of milk, 94 of which passed the tests.

The administration of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders was carried out by the County Agricultural Committee and the County Veterinary Officer of the County Council until 1938. During that year the procedure with regard to "Accredited" and Tuberculin Tested Licences was somewhat modified owing firstly to the transfer, under the Agriculture Act, 1937, of the work of the County Veterinary Surgeons employed by the County Council to the Veterinary Inspectors employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and secondly, to the transfer of the administration of these Orders from the County Agricultural Committee to the Public Health Committee. For this purpose a Milk Officer was appointed.

At the end of the year 1938 there were 138 producers holding Licences for Accredited milk and 20 producers holding Tuberculin Tested Licences. At present there are 89 Accredited milk producers and 46 holding Tuberculin Tested Licences. It is interesting to note the marked rise in Tuberculin Tested herds as being a forward step in the direction of a safe milk supply. The Accredited scheme, though a laudable attempt, by offering a bonus to producers for the production of clean milk, has little effect upon the safety of the supply. The fall in the number of Accredited producers is accounted for to a large extent by the transfer of quite a number of these to the roll of T.T. producers. A number have been suspended for failing to observe the ordinary rules of clean milk production, and therefore not fulfilling their contractual obligation.

During the past six years, I think it can be said with perfect truth that the standard of milk production in the County has been improved. An attempt has been made both to raise the standard and to make it uniform throughout the County. As the opportunity presented itself and especially when a change of occupation of premises took place, improvements and adaptations have been effected before the renewal or transfer of the licence was granted, with the result that, in spite of difficulties of the war, many excellent cowsheds have been built.

Throughout the campaign, for it really has been a campaign, the closest co-operation has been maintained with all the Sanitary Inspectors of the County and the advantages of this co-operation have been reciprocal.

The catastrophe of war brought many difficulties, such as the reduction of workers in the cowsheds, and the scarcity of labour and materials when adaptation or improvement of premises was necessary. It was clear, however, that the producer of good-will overcame these difficulties and preserved the pre-war standard and it was the producer who in peace-time had been awkward and unco-operative, who was most affected by the difficulties of war.

As the war proceeded, the great importance of milk as a valuable food supply came to the forefront and the great loss by souring of a tremendous part of this supply presented an urgent problem. It was then that the War Agricultural Executive Committee were vested with the duty and powers to clean up the milk supply. Conferences took place between the Committee and the several Milk Authorities of the County so as to agree to a uniform standard of premises and production, and plan to reduce overlapping to a minimum.

Agreement was reached on these points and it was decided that the supervision of Designated Producers would be left to the County Council Milk Officer, and that the Milk Officers appointed by the War Agricultural Committee would concentrate on advising and supervising the non-designated producers.

As County Medical Officer, I was invited to join the Milk Production Sub-Committee of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, and I therefore have a full knowledge of the work done by that Committee. They have been imbued with a whole-hearted desire and zeal for the raising of the standard of clean milk production in the County and their efforts to this end have been most successful. I wish here to acknowledge the unfailing courtesy that has been extended to me and the sympathetic way that all suggestions on the Public Health aspect made by me have been received and accepted. The work of the Committee has been encouraged by the progressive Authority and has supplied the very necessary prod to the Authority who has been less so.



Much good work, too, has been done under the Committee's auspices in the improvement of premises by the recommending of priority for materials of construction, and the sinking of bores, etc.

And now a drastic change in milk administration is contemplated. As envisaged in a White Paper, practically all the powers are to be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and the administration will devolve largely on their Veterinary Inspectorate.

The reasons given for this change are that it is essential to clear up the milk industry, that a uniform standard throughout the country must be insisted on, and that this transference is the best way to attain these ends.

If this change will have the desired effect, resulting in a clean and safe milk supply, then it is the obvious duty of every authority to encourage it. While it must be admitted that standards have varied throughout the country, and that in some places this standard has been notoriously low, it may be doubted whether a better policy would not have been to leave the progressive authorities, with their trained personnel, to continue their good work, and to seek powers to compel the negligent authorities to fulfil their obligations. It is true, too, to say that the law as it stands has not been helpful to progressive authorities in their efforts to insist on the standards they believed necessary.

Be this as it may, a Health Authority must always be interested in the milk supply, with its great effects for good or ill on the community and a *sine qua non* of any legislation should be that the Health Authority, who is responsible for the prevention of disease, will have appropriate powers to this end.

### (3) Veterinary Inspection of Cattle.

The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has supplied the following statistics of his work during the year :—3,442 animals in 43 Tuberculin Tested herds, 14,665 animals in 404 Accredited herds and 9,157 animals in 817 Non-designated herds were examined. Of these, 8 animals in Accredited herds and 4 animals in Non-designated herds were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. The statutory tests were carried out on 3,386 animals in "Tuberculin Tested" and "Certified" herds and 6 reactors were found.

### (4) Milk in Schools Scheme.

The Scheme has been maintained throughout the County, in spite of difficulties due to war-time conditions.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year, as compared with 1942 :—

	1942.		1943.	
	Local.	Evacuees.	Local.	Evacuees.
Number of Schools with Scheme .. .. .	151	—	147	—
Number of children taking milk .. .. .	7773	1500	7992	1175
Number of children attending these schools ..	10568	1881	10563	1493

### (b) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year one hundred and eighty-nine samples were taken and analysed, as follows :—

Apple Juice, 1 ; Baking-powder, 2 ; Barley, 1 ; Beef extract, 1 ; Bi-carbonate of Soda, 1 ; Blanc Mange Powder, 1 ; Black-currant flavour, 1 ; Butter, 5 ; Chicken broth cubes, 1 ; Chocolate biscuit mixture, 1 ; Chocolate spread powder, 1 ; Chocolate malted food, 1 ; Coffee, 1 ; Coffee extract, 2 ; Drisauce, 1 ; Essence of Rennet, 1 ; Gin, 1 ; Lactic sugar, 1 ; Lard, 5 ; Lemon curd, 1 ; Malted Chocolate food, 1 ; Malted Milk, 1 ; Malted Milk tablets, 1 ; Marmalade, 1 ; Meat extract, 2 ; Milk, 112 ; Mixed Spice, 1 ; Orange Squash, 6 ; Pepper, 1 ; Preserving tablets, 1 ; Real Egg self-raising flour, 1 ; Raisin wine flavour, 1 ; Raising powder, 1 ; Saccharin tablets, 2 ; Salad cream, 1 ; Salad dressing mixture, 1 ; Self-raising flour, 1 ; Savoury hot lunch, 1 ; Soya cream, 1 ; Spaghetti, 1 ; Strawberry jam, 2 ; Strawberry flavour sponge mixture, 1 ; Sweetened malted standard custard, 1 ; Sweetened Semolina, 1 ; Sugar, 1 ; Tea, 4 ; Vinegar, 1 ; Whiskey, 3 ; Yorkshire pudding mixture, 1 ; Epsom Salts, 1 ; Eucalyptus Oil, 2 ; Health and Liver Salts, 1 ; Liquid Paraffin, 1 ; Parish's Chemical Food, 1.

Of these, 1 sample of baking-powder, 1 of black-currant flavour, 1 of orange squash, and 11 of milk were found to be not genuine.

### (c) NUTRITION.

The following table shows the classification of children routinely inspected in 1942 and 1943.

	1942.		1943.	
	Local.	Evacuees.	Local.	Evacuees.
Number of Children Examined .. .. .	3752	1145	3355	897
Excellent Nutrition .. .. .	16.5 %	15.7 %	20.1 %	16.5 %
Normal Nutrition .. .. .	73.7 %	77.8 %	69.7 %	73.7 %
Slightly Sub-Normal Nutrition .. .. .	9.7 %	6.2 %	9.7 %	9.7 %
Bad Nutrition .. .. .	.1 %	.3 %	.5 %	.1 %

It will be noted that the percentage of children with slightly sub-normal and bad nutrition remains comparatively low. So far as the local children are concerned, the percentage with excellent nutrition is the highest since regular records were first made in 1935.

The scheme for school meals is being largely extended, and this undoubtedly is an important factor in maintaining and improving the nutrition of the children.



By the courtesy of the County Education Secretary, I give the following report, which has been supplied by him :—

“ It was estimated that by the end of 1943 there would be 2,900 children having school dinners. The actual figures of the number of meals consumed on a single day in October, 1943, were :—

Free .. .. .	298
Payment (including part-payment) .. ..	2904
	<hr/>
	3202
	<hr/>

This figure represents twenty-eight per cent. of the number of children on roll. The most satisfactory feature is the high percentage in many schools of the children who take meals regularly.

During the year October, 1942—October, 1943, fifty-three new schemes were put into operation, this number being made up as follows :—

Self-contained Canteens .. .. .	14
Schools served from East Suffolk Emergency Cooking Depots—	
(a) Hadleigh .. .. .	9*
(b) Stowmarket .. .. .	14
Schools served from Bury St. Edmund's Central Kitchen .. .. .	12
Schools served from British Restaurants ..	5
	<hr/>
	54
	<hr/>

\*Includes one school where own Canteen has been unavoidably closed.

As regards new kitchen units to be built at the schools by the Ministry of Works, the Board have agreed to one application and have under consideration a second. It has been agreed to make five more such applications for individual schools, but which it is hoped will serve some six additional schools. In connection with the supply of these units the Committee have agreed to co-operate with the Borough of Bury St. Edmund's in sharing one to serve the town, the schools now served by the Central Kitchen and some three further schools. Three adaptation schemes serving four schools have been approved by the Board of Education and a further two are awaiting their approval. A closed British Restaurant is being taken over, and, when re-opened, will supply meals to four schools. Further schemes as regards the remaining schools are in various stages of preparation.”

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### (a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1943.

	Total Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Small Pox .. .. .	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	177	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	24	—
Enteric Fever .. .. .	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .. .. .	14	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	51	39
Erysipelas .. .. .	13	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	4	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	6	2
Measles .. .. .	778	3
Whooping Cough .. .. .	151	—
Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .. ..	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis .. .. .	—	1

### (b) Infectious Diseases and School Children.

#### General.

During 1943, one school was closed on account of Mumps, Coughs and Colds.

110 Low Attendance Certificates were issued by the Medical Department in respect of the following conditions :—

Whooping Cough 1, Measles 12, Chickenpox 13, Influenza 35, Coughs and Colds 1, Whooping Cough and Measles 4, Mumps 33, Scarlet Fever and Measles 1, Scarlet Fever and Mumps 1, Mumps and Measles 3, Chickenpox and Measles 5, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough 1.

(c) **Emergency Infectious Disease Hospital.**

The number of cases suitable for admission to Highbury House, the emergency infectious disease hospital, declined considerably during the year, and in October it was decided to close it and retain it on a care and maintenance basis. The last case was discharged on October 16th.

Sixty-one cases, including 23 children under school age, 32 school children and 6 adults, were admitted for the following reasons :—

Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1
Measles .. .. .	10
Mumps .. .. .	7
Whooping Cough .. .. .	7
Chickenpox .. .. .	4
Rubella .. .. .	2
Rubella and Chickenpox .. .. .	1
Impetigo .. .. .	4
Scabies .. .. .	3
Enuresis .. .. .	4
Psoriasis .. .. .	2
Sore Throat .. .. .	1
Otitis Media .. .. .	1
Abscess .. .. .	1
Vincent's Angina .. .. .	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	1
Mother accompanying baby .. .. .	1
Observation .. .. .	10
	—
	61
	—

(d) **Treatment of Scabies.**

During the year 496 cases, of whom 274 were of school age, 63 under school age, and 159 adults, were referred to the Local Sanitary Authorities for treatment. Of these, 47 were evacuated and 449 were local people.

(e) **Immunisation Against Diphtheria.**

Immunisation on new entrants to schools and children who for some reason had not been previously protected was carried out routinely in the schools and clinics.

As in previous years, the schools were used as centres for the inoculation of pre-school children when no infant welfare clinic was accessible.

During the year 663 school children and 1,254 children under school age were immunised.

(f) **Cancer.**

The arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from Cancer were as in previous years. 31 cases were admitted to the Council's Institutions.

During the year 234 deaths from Cancer occurred. This number is 15.6% of the total deaths. The following table shows the age distribution :—

*Deaths from Cancer 1943.*

	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total.
Males	—	—	—	3	30	78	111
Females	—	—	—	11	45	67	123
Total	—	—	—	14	75	145	234

**BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.**

(1) **GENERAL REPORT ON THE SERVICE IN WEST SUFFOLK.**

**Registration.**

There were 223 registered blind persons in the County at the end of the year, the age groups being as follows :—

Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Total.
0—5	5—16	16—21	21—50	50—65	65—70	Over 70	
1	4	2	32	64	33	87	2 23

In addition there were 8 blind persons evacuated from other areas.

### Institutions.

Fourteen persons were being maintained in Public Assistance Institutions, four in special Schools, and four in Institutions for the Mentally Defective.

### Work of Home Teacher and Visitor.

The Home Teacher has paid 899 routine visits during the year, and given 24 lessons in Braille, 9 in Moon Type and 7 in Handicrafts.

### Home Workers.

The arrangement with the Norwich Institution for the Blind for the supervision of the Home Workers in the County is still in force. There were four such workers recognised under the scheme.

### Workshop Workers.

One person was maintained in an institution for the Blind, where he was employed in the workshops throughout the year, and another was so employed for part of the year.

### Other Workers.

In addition to the recognised "Home Workers," nine persons were employed in remunerative occupations as follows :—Basket and Cane Workers, 1 ; Boot repairers, 2 ; Braille Copyist, 1 ; net maker, 1 ; Wood-worker, 1 ; others, 3.

### Training.

In addition to sending blind children to special schools, the Education Committee undertake the training of blind adults on the advice of the County Medical Officer.

### Domiciliary Assistance.

At the end of the year 124 blind persons, including 5 evacuees, were in receipt of domiciliary assistance.

## (2) WEST SUFFOLK VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION.

The Association assisted a number of blind people during the year by making grants to help in emergencies, in convalescence and for holidays.

Five Socials, three in Bury St. Edmund's and two in Sudbury, were held, as also were a number of occupation classes which took the place of Socials. At these many useful articles were produced, and a Sale of Work realised £40, which was handed over to the fund for Merchant Seamen.

## BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND DEATHS DUE TO CERTAIN DISEASES.

DISTRICT.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-Cough.	Ac. Inf. Encephalitis.	Ac. Poliomyel. and Polio-Enceph.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Cancer.	Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis.	Other Maternal Causes.
<b>Boroughs and Urban.</b>														
Bury St. Edmund's	.. 16.8	12.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	40	—	1
Hadleigh	.. 14.0	14.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—
Haverhill	.. 15.6	13.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	11	—	—
Newmarket	.. 14.3	18.0	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	3	28	—	1
Sudbury	.. 13.0	15.2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	13	—	—
Total	.. 15.3	14.3	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	13	5	96	—	2
<b>Rural.</b>														
Clare	.. 17.5	14.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	19	1	—
Cosford	.. 16.1	13.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	22	—	—
Melford	.. 14.8	13.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	31	—	—
Mildenhall	.. 16.8	11.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	17	—	—
Thedwastre	.. 16.5	14.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	22	—	1
Thingoe	.. 17.4	12.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	27	—	—
Total	.. 16.6	13.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	8	138	1	1
Grand Total	.. 16.1	13.6	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	33	13	234	1	3